

# Weekly Views

November 16, 2012

The quick actions of rookie Officer Raymond Peters at the Westville Correctional Facility likely saved the life of fellow Officer Brian Herndon, when he was involved in a car accident just outside facility grounds. From his tower post, Officer Peters witnessed Officer Herndon drive his car off the road and drive into a field after losing consciousness. Peters immediately called in assistance from facility ground units and the City of Westville Emergency Staff. Officer Herndon was taken to the hospital where he is being treated for compound fractures in both legs, a fractured nose and a black eye. Several days after the accident, Herndon remembers leaving work and entering his car but nothing much after that. One thing is for sure, Herndon said, was that he appreciates the comradeship of his fellow officers and staff, as well as the Westville Police.

Indiana Department of Correction Deputy Commissioner of Operations Michael Osburn, who also serves as Brigadier General in the Indiana National Guard, met with members of the Pendleton Correctional Facility American Legion to present military coins honoring their service. Attending with General Osburn were Command Sergeant Major Patrick Fromme and Sergeant First Class Kara Ruczynski from the National Guard.

The Correctional Industrial Facility's first-ever Offender Talent Show was a tremendous success and was the first of many more to come. Over 30 offenders participated in the two hour program providing a diverse array of talent. The program was divided into four categories; solo singing, solo rap, musical group and poetry. All categories included many original songs and pieces of poetry that expressed insight into the lives of offenders. Astonishing guitar skills were displayed in songs like "Free Bird" and a jazz medley. The offenders performed two shows one for staff and another for general population and both groups were impressed by the talent CIF offenders had to offer.

Sarah Peckham, Wayne Scaife and Chawn Davis of Pendleton Correctional Facility delivered twelve blankets to the Indiana Women's Prison Wee Ones Nursery program. The blankets were made by offenders who are part of the Inside Out Dads program at Pendleton. The babies and their mothers appreciated the time, effort and thought put into the blankets.

Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility held a Subway food sale with proceeds being donated to the Central Noble Food Pantry. Donation boxes for non perishable food items have been placed throughout the facility so offenders and staff have the opportunity to help the food pantry this holiday season.

The Indiana Veterans Education and Transition (INVET) Unit at the Indianapolis Re-entry Educational Facility (IREF) was involved in an outside work crew of 24 men helping the Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation (HVAF) with winterization of their scatter site properties for homeless veterans. The event was a huge success and HVAF wishes to be more active in partnering with IREF on whatever level is needed.

Madison Correctional Facility's garden produced more than 4,000 pounds of produce this year. Radishes, cucumbers, yellow squash, zucchini, green peppers, banana peppers, green beans, tomatoes, egg plant, and watermelon were all grown. The majority of the produce was donated to the Salvation Army of Madison, and the rest was given to Aramark to supplement offender meals. The garden was cultivated, planted, watered, and harvested by offenders. The facility has also acquired a new green house. The garden workers saved many seeds from the produce grown this year and from the plants that are located around the facility. As soon as the greenhouse is operational, they will begin growing plants for next spring. The green house should allow the facility to be able to give vegetables and other items to both the City of Madison as well as the Salvation Army year round.

Pendleton Correctional Facility held a PLUS Program graduation for 45 offenders. Family members who attended the event were treated to a meal with the offenders. The Honorable Jose D. Salinas of the Marion County Superior Re-Entry Court served as the guest speaker.

The Community Service staff at Westville Correctional Facility have received 58 boxes of men's clothing, including warm winter sweaters and coats. The donations are from the Orphan Grain Train in Elizabethtown. Westville releases, on an average, 150 offenders a month. The warm clothing donations will allow the facility to release offenders in appropriate winter attire.

Superintendent Stanley Knight extends his congratulations to Joshua Mattox, Casey Harder and Robert Myers on their promotion to the rank of Sergeant at the Putnamville Correctional Facility.

Superintendent William K. Wilson proudly announced staff promotions at the Indiana State Prison. Anthony Watson and Steven Hough were promoted to Correctional Lieutenant. James Tibbs, Tim Redden, and Matthew Phillips promoted to Correctional Sergeants. Congratulations to all!

Miami Correctional Facility's Correctional Employee Appreciation Committee held a successful fundraiser selling chicken and noodles with mashed potatoes to staff. The committee raised more than \$200 to be used for employee appreciation activities during the year.

Maria Acosta, Correctional Officer Trainee from the Indiana State Prison was presented the Teamwork Award during graduation of the Regional Training Academy by ISP Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Ron Neal, who served as the keynote speaker for the graduating class.